

**In the claims:**

1. (canceled)

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2. (currently amended) A spline lubrication apparatus as set forth in claim 1 6 wherein

said housing includes:

10 a first part;

a second part removably cooperating with said first part such that said first and second parts together define an enclosure for the disposition therein of said spline, gear, bearing and shield.

15 3. (currently amended) A spline lubrication apparatus as set forth in claim 1 6 wherein

said spline is removably assembled within said internally splined bore.

4. (currently amended) A spline lubrication apparatus as set forth in claim 1 6 wherein

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said gear includes:

a rotatable sleeve which defines an annular collar which cooperates with said bearing.

5. (original) A spline lubrication apparatus as set forth in claim 4 wherein

5 said sleeve defines said internally splined bore.

6. (currently amended) A spline lubrication apparatus for lubricating a spline of a pump drive, said apparatus comprising:

10 a housing;

a shaft having a first and a second end and an external surface extending between said first and second ends, said external surface defining a plurality of longitudinally extending splines such that said shaft defines a rotatable spline disposed within said housing;

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a gear rotatably supported within said housing, said gear including an internally splined bore for the rotatable reception therein of said rotatable spline such that said rotatable spline extends through said bore with said plurality of splines intermeshing with said internally splined bore;

20 a bearing having a first and a second extremity, said bearing being disposed between said gear and said housing for bearingly supporting said gear for rotation within said housing;

a shield disposed adjacent to one of said extremities of said bearing for diverting a portion of a flow of lubricant flowing through said bearing so that said portion of said flow of lubricant flows through said bore between said plurality of splines and said intermeshing internally splined bore for inhibiting fretting corrosion of said intermeshing splines and splined bore;

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said gear including:

a rotatable sleeve which defines an annular collar which cooperates with said bearing;

10 ~~A spline lubrication apparatus as set forth in claim 4 wherein~~

said sleeve ~~defines~~ defining a further internally splined bore; and

an insert of cylindrical configuration, said insert having a cylindrical surface which defines  
 15 externally extending splines which cooperate with said further internally splined bore of said sleeve, said insert defining said internally splined bore which cooperates with said plurality of splines of said rotatable spline;

7. (currently amended) A spline lubrication apparatus as set forth in claim 1 6 wherein

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said bearing includes:

an inner ring;

an outer ring disposed concentrically relative to said inner ring;

5 a bearing race disposed between said rings.

8. (original) A spline lubrication apparatus as set forth in claim 7 wherein

said bearing race includes:

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a plurality of ball bearings.

9. (original) A spline lubrication apparatus as set forth in claim 7 wherein

15 said bearing race includes:

a plurality of tapered bearings.

10. (currently amended) A spline lubrication apparatus as set forth in claim ~~7~~ 6 wherein

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said gear and said bearing are self-contained within said housing.

11. (currently amended) A spline lubrication apparatus as set forth in claim † 6 wherein  
said shield is disposed within said flow of lubricant and downstream relative to said bearing.

5 12. (currently amended) A spline lubrication apparatus as set forth in claim † 6 wherein  
said shield is disposed within said flow of lubricant and upstream relative to said bearing.

13. (currently amended) A spline lubrication apparatus as set forth in claim † 6 wherein  
10 said shield is of annular configuration.

14. (original) A spline lubrication apparatus as set forth in claim 7 wherein

15 said shield is of annular configuration, said shield shielding said inner ring, said outer ring and  
said bearing race so that said portion of said flow of lubricant is diverted through said bore  
between said plurality of splines and said intermeshing internally splined bore for inhibiting  
fretting corrosion of said intermeshing splines and splined bore.

20 15. (currently amended) A spline lubrication apparatus for lubricating a spline of a pump  
drive, said apparatus comprising:

a housing;

a shaft having a first and a second end and an external surface extending between said first and second ends, said external surface defining a plurality of longitudinally extending splines such  
 5 that said shaft defines a rotatable spline disposed within said housing;

a gear rotatably supported within said housing, said gear including an internally splined bore for the rotatable reception therein of said rotatable spline such that said rotatable spline extends through said bore with said plurality of splines intermeshing with said internally splined bore;

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a bearing having a first and a second extremity, said bearing being disposed between said gear and said housing for bearingly supporting said gear for rotation within said housing;

a shield disposed adjacent to one of said extremities of said bearing for diverting a portion of a  
 15 flow of lubricant flowing through said bearing so that said portion of said flow of lubricant flows through said bore between said plurality of splines and said intermeshing internally splined bore for inhibiting fretting corrosion of said intermeshing splines and splined bore;

~~A spline lubrication apparatus as set forth in claim 1 wherein~~

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said shield is being of annular configuration having an inner and an outer rim; and

said outer rim defining a ring which is divided into equidistantly spaced segments such that said ring permits anchoring of said shield relative to said bearing.

16. (canceled)

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17. (canceled)

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